In the absence of Mr. Talbot (Guyana), Mr. Memo, Vice-Chair, took the Chair.

The meeting was called to order at 3.00 p.m.

Item 25: Operational activities for development (*continued*)

(a) Quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system (*continued*) (A/67/93-E/2012/79, A/67/94-E/2012/80, A/67/320-E/2012/89 and A/67/516//1)

(b) South-South cooperation (*continued*) (A/67/39) and A/67/208)

1. **Mr. Herlihy** (Ireland) said that his delegation wished to highlight four issues. First, no single country or United Nations agency could meet current development challenges. Innovative, high-quality partnership across national and organizational lines, including non-United Nations stakeholders, was key to leveraging expertise and assets. Programs such as Scaling Up Nutrition, in the area of food and nutrition security, exemplified the benefits of sharing best practice, knowledge and information.

2. Secondly, results-based evaluation was crucial for translating financial and human resources into more effective programmes. Quality evaluation at the national level would improve the ability of the United Nations to more effectively allocate resources to country needs and priorities as well as to assess the value of its contribution in the context of national development results.

3. Thirdly, system-wide accountability was paramount, particularly with respect to cross-cutting issues. The United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), with its toolkit for addressing gender inequality, was a good example of an approach that held the whole United Nations development system to account.

4. Lastly, affirming the strong commitment of the United Nations to countries in post-conflict situations, he said that increased cooperation among the different United Nations silos was needed to maximize the results of the Organization's contribution to development, human rights, military and political work.

5. **Mr. Sul** Kyung-hoon (Republic of Korea) said that the report of Secretary-General on the quadrennial comprehensive policy review (A/67/320-E/2012/89) offered useful guidance for a new policy framework in advance of the 2015 deadline for the Millennium Development Goals and beyond.

6. It was time for the United Nations to scale up its engagement with other partners. By leveraging its comparative advantage, the Organization could play a leading role in bringing diverse players together. Greater efficiency and effectiveness would yield more value for money and help to correct the growing imbalance between core and non-core resources.

7. The pilot initiative "Delivering as one" was a good example of development programming that should be refined and integrated into United Nations development operations as a whole. He stressed the need for country-specific accountability, with increased coordination between resident coordinators and country teams, as well as improved business practices within United Nations agencies. A similar degree of operational partnership was needed between the United Nations and entities working in transition countries. The New Deal for Engagement in Fragile States, adopted at the High-level Forum on Aid Effectiveness, held in Busan in 2011, was a useful blueprint.

8. His delegation agreed with the recommendation in the report on mainstreaming South-South and triangular cooperation into the regular programming of operational activities. The Organization should make enhanced use of the knowledge of middle-income countries in the area of capacity development, and the basic principle of country ownership and transparency must be respected.

9. **Mr. León González** (Cuba) said that despite numerous resolutions and Conference outcomes, the developed nations were using the current global crises as a pretext to curtail their development financing, especially the delivery of core resources, to the United Nations system. Although resolutions 62/208 and 64/289 had both called on developed nations to allocate 0.7 per cent of their gross national product to official development assistance (ODA), the Secretary-General's report on the quadrennial comprehensive policy review made no mention of that critical commitment.

10. He reiterated Cuba's view that core resources were the cornerstone of United Nations operational activities. There was an urgent need to address the growing imbalance between core and non-core resources, without making core assistance conditional or

undermining the right of recipient countries to set their own priorities. Moreover, the fundamental characteristics of operational activities set out in General Assembly resolution 62/208, paragraph 3, must continue to be respected. The advent of South-South cooperation should not be seen as a replacement for North-South cooperation but rather as a complement to it within the larger international development context, in which respect for national sovereignty remained essential. Donor countries and the United Nations should also provide greater support to triangular cooperation.

11. In that regard, Cuba agreed with the Secretary-General that the resident coordinator system should be strengthened, and believed that recommendation 36 (a) (i) of the Secretary-General's report should reflect the exact language of the resolution it was quoting (namely, General Assembly resolution 62/208, para. 89). The Committee should make that responsibility rotational among representatives of the various agencies, funds and programmes in the field. A rotation system would help United Nations entities on the ground to better understand the priorities of recipient countries as well as allow them more time to mobilize appropriate resources.

12. **Mr. Wolfe** (Jamaica) said that as a middle-income country that had benefited from the presence of United Nations programmes on the ground, Jamaica had first-hand experience in aligning its national development priorities with the United Nations development assistance framework (UNDAF). He stressed the need for predictable, stable, long-term funding for the operational activities of the United Nations, in particular with respect to core funding, which had decreased in recent years. The growing imbalance between core and non-core funding also needed to be addressed and the universal, voluntary, grant and multilateral nature of United Nations operational activities must be maintained.

13. In this context, there should not be a rush towards adopting "Delivering as one" as the primary mechanism for United Nations development engagement. Rather, the focus should be on determining the best model for each country. While South-South cooperation had become a key element in the overall development context, it should be viewed as complementary to rather than a substitute for traditional development work, including triangular cooperation.

14. Jamaica supported the decision of the seventeenth session of the High-level Committee on South-South Cooperation to transform the Special Unit for South-South Cooperation into the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation.

15. **Mr. Wang** Min (China) said that with 1.4 billion people still living under the threat of poverty and hunger, the primary goal of United Nations development activities should be the timely achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. The uneven resource structure and the fragmentation of resources had seriously undermined the effective operation of the United Nations development system and its agencies. The quadrennial comprehensive policy review should adopt a two-pronged approach, increasing the overall amount of core donation and improving the quality of non-core resources. It should also emphasize the importance of capacity-building. Developed countries needed to deliver on their commitments to provide increased assistance, particularly with respect to the least developed countries as set forth in the Istanbul Programme of Action.

16. While adjustments might be needed and efficiency could be improved, reform was not an end in itself. In assessing the impact of "Delivering as one", the United Nations development system should not impose a single modality but rather draw on the experience of the pilot countries in order to better tailor its assistance going forward.

17. In that context, South-South cooperation was a valuable avenue for leveraging the comparative advantages of developing countries, but should not take away from the leading role of North-South cooperation.

18. **Mr. Ben Mellouk** (Morocco) said that changes in the global development landscape since the last review and the impact of the world economic food crises on developing countries posed new challenges. With the Millennium Development Goals a few years away, the United Nations development system needed to scale up efforts to ensure that the countries of the South were able to reduce their remaining inequalities and to improve access to basic services. In order to further the goals of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20), United Nations development agencies should do more to help countries integrate their economic, social and environmental agendas to offer a genuine model of sustainable development.

Priority should be given to the poorest regions. Since, according to the Secretary-General's report, by 2025 more than 80 per cent of the world's poor would live in Africa (A/67/320, para. 9), the United Nations should scale up its development aid to African nations.

19. Particular attention should be focused on countries in transition to democracy, which needed sufficient support to respond to their people's demands and to implement their programmes for reform and economic recovery. Support must also be provided to middle-income countries based on their development priorities.

20. Despite an overall increase in assistance available for development, core support had declined from 53 per cent in 1995 to 26 per cent in 2010. The United Nations would be unable to achieve its goals or accomplish its mission so long as the gap between core and non-core sources persisted. The challenges were overwhelming. The United Nations must ensure reliable and predictable funding for operational activities, preserve their neutrality, streamline and simplify its procedures, and help build the national capacity of beneficiary countries to deal with poverty, food security, climate change and education and gender issues.

21. On the other hand, South-South and triangular cooperation had become important components of international cooperation. The presence on the ground of the United Nations system was an asset that should help developing countries to maximize the benefits of such initiatives and partnerships.

22. **Mr. Hoxha** (Albania) said that in order for the United Nations to retain its predominant place in international development, it needed to improve coordination and eliminate fragmentation at the country level. As one of the eight pilot countries in the "Delivering as one" initiative, Albania had first-hand experience with that programme's attempt to remedy the level and quality of country-specific assistance while also improving the impact of the United Nations development system as a whole.

23. "Delivering as one" provided an opportunity to test a new mechanism that delegated and decentralized power in the areas of development planning, programming and implementation. There were now four times as many countries in "Delivering as one", representing a wide array of Member States.

24. After five years, it was clear from both internal and independent evaluations that the programme could and should be applied across the board. The experimental phase had been a success and should now become a standard part of the development toolkit, available to any country on request, as recommended in the outcome document of the Fifth High-level Intergovernmental Conference on Delivering as One, held in Tirana in June. Consequently, full implementation of the management and accountability system should no longer be viewed as a means of strengthening the role of the resident coordinators.

25. **Mr. Govrin** (Israel) said that as the United Nations shaped the post-2015 development agenda, it needed to assess not just the growing challenges but also the opportunities for meeting them. He noted in particular the multiplicity of development actors and the global proliferation of technology, whose transformative impact would be vast.

26. As a member of the Executive Board of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA) and the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS), and on field trips to specific regions, including the Horn of Africa, Israel had acquired first-hand experience in the issues and structural challenges facing those agencies at both the country level and system-wide.

27. Based on that experience and as it prepared to join the Executive Board of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) in 2013, Israel wished to recommend that the United Nations should emphasize its results and impact by investing more in evaluation and reporting, as well as by introducing common criteria for results-reporting across agencies. The pilot initiative "Delivering as one" had proven its effectiveness as a tool for addressing cross-cutting issues such as gender equality and child mortality within country-specific programmes. However, its impact would be enhanced if the problem of vertical accountability in programme countries were addressed by incorporating the modality of working "as one" into United Nations engagement at the country level, including the identification of sustainable funding.

28. The resident coordinator system of such programmes was similarly limited by separate agency lines of accountability and the voluntary nature of the coordination function. The role of resident coordinators

should be strengthened and expanded to include enhanced coordination with programme countries, the donor community and actors in the area of disaster relief. Country teams had also indicated the need for a better firewall between the resident coordinator's role as a representative of both UNDP and the Secretary-General.

29. **Mr. Sinhaseni** (Thailand) said that while it was important to accelerate global efforts to achieve the Millennium Development Goals by 2015, the Committee should also look beyond that deadline to make appropriate adjustments to the development agenda for the future.

30. Better alignment of United Nations development activities with national priorities continued to be critical to programme success. In that connection, Thailand welcomed the new United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation as an important and long-overdue step towards strengthening the role of the United Nations in promoting and facilitating South-South and triangular cooperation; the Office should be endowed with adequate resources to fulfil its mandate. His delegation was also pleased that South-South cooperation had been incorporated into the United Nations Partnership Framework for Thailand 2012-2016. As new supportive mechanisms became available, it was important to ensure that the United Nations development system would be ready to make full use of them.

31. **Mr. Le** Hoai Trung (Viet Nam) said that Viet Nam had been one of the original eight countries in the pilot "Delivering as one" initiative, which had built on the "One United Nations" programme already in place in his country during its period of post-war reconstruction and reform. Recognizing the comparative advantage of United Nations organizations, Viet Nam had incorporated the strongest features of both "One United Nations" and "Delivering as one" into its development framework as a means for achieving maximum results from both internal and external resources. Greater coordination and harmonization of United Nations development cooperation activities would further improve effectiveness.

32. Among the measures already implemented were a One Plan Fund to facilitate the mobilization of unearmarked and multi-year funding, enhanced responsibility for the resident coordinator, one set of management practices, and plans to build a green One UN House. In order to promote Government ownership and enhance the relevance of United Nations agencies, especially the country team, sufficient resources were needed to ensure results commensurate with the efforts Viet Nam and its development partners had invested in strategic planning.

33. **Mr. Alemu** (Ethiopia) said that although there had been positive overall shifts in the development landscape, the least developed countries had been hardest hit by the multiple global crises, in particular by the impact of climate change. Although millions of people had moved out of poverty, close to 1 billion worldwide were still malnourished, and the absolute number of poor people in sub-Saharan Africa had actually increased over the past two decades. To meet growing demand, it was critical for United Nations operational development activities to become more flexible and more responsive.

34. The unprecedented imbalance between core and non-core resources had compromised the predictability and sustainability of development assistance and its alignment with national priorities. The short-term nature of non-core resources, as well as earmarking and donor-specific procedures, had aggravated the fragmentation of resources and increased transaction costs.

35. Progress in that regard was stymied by different financing, reporting and evaluation procedures across agencies, funds and programmes, and by existing rules and regulations at Headquarters. The quadrennial comprehensive policy review was an opportunity to address such challenges with specific remedies. Rebalancing core and non-core resources as well as improving the quality of non-core resources by easing earmarking and harmonizing requirements were fundamental steps that would not only improve delivery at the country level but would enhance the legitimacy of the United Nations role in international development.

36. Other urgent measures included strengthening the resident coordinator system; unifying software, fund release procedures and monitoring and evaluation approaches at Headquarters; reforming system governance; and assessing both the vertical and horizontal delegation of authority and decision-making to the country offices.

37. Ethiopia, one of the countries that had volunteered for "Delivering as one", had fully aligned its Growth and Transformation Plan with the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF), in an effort to succeed in the fight to eradicate poverty.

38. **Mr. Gumende** (Mozambique) said that the global development cooperation landscape had changed dramatically since the last comprehensive policy review of operational activities (2007). Accordingly, the report of the Secretary-General on the quadrennial comprehensive policy review was useful, as it contained recommendations for enhancing the relevance and effectiveness of the United Nations development system. He expressed his delegation's satisfaction that contributions to United Nations operational activities for development had grown faster over the last 15 years than total official development assistance (ODA). He hoped that core resources would be provided on a more predictable basis.

39. The "Delivering as one" initiative had made the development partnership between the United Nations and Mozambique more productive, including by encouraging joint programmes and inter-agency coordination, which had helped in tackling challenges in such areas as social protection, HIV and AIDS, nutrition, food security and disaster risk reduction. The role of resident coordinators should be further strengthened, in line with the findings of the independent evaluation of "Delivering as one", in order to increase efficiency at country level. He noted with satisfaction the conclusion of the evaluation that "Delivering as one" had strengthened national ownership in United Nations system operational activities.

40. As the "Delivering as one" initiative had met the objectives for which it had been established, he expected the quadrennial comprehensive policy review to agree with the independent evaluation that the initiative should be continued and that it should now focus on results and relevance. Monitoring and recording results, developing capacity, and policy support should be the priorities for the second generation of "Delivering as one".

41. South-South cooperation was an expression of solidarity among countries based on their shared experiences and objectives. Development cooperation had changed significantly in recent years, creating challenges for all stakeholders, especially developing countries, and making United Nations operational activities for development very important at the current juncture.

42. There were now a multiplicity of traditional and non-traditional donors with different approaches to cooperation for development. Mozambique generally viewed partners with reference to the conventional categories of North-South and South-South cooperation, as well as triangular cooperation. Those types of cooperation were complementary; in some cases, different donors had implemented specific projects collectively. For example, Mozambique was implementing a rural and agricultural development project in conjunction with the non-traditional donor Brazil, which was providing know-how and technology, and the traditional donor Japan, which was providing financial and technical resources.

43. **Mr. Zan** (Myanmar) commended the United Nations development system for its support for national development and the immense and broad contribution of the United Nations operational activities for development. While acknowledging the comparative advantages of the various United Nations development entities, he said that national ownership of the development process should remain a guiding principle of operational activities, which should be carried out at the request of the recipient countries and in accordance with their development policies and priorities.

44. Improving the development system's resource situation was a central concern. Without adequate financial support, little could be done to promote development or enhance the efficiency and accountability of the development system. With resources in serious decline, Myanmar urged donor countries to honour their financial assistance commitments.

45. Despite being listed among the least developed countries, Myanmar had been deprived of a normal UNDP country programme for the preceding 20 years and had therefore not fully benefited from United Nations operational activities. According to World Bank data, Myanmar had received only $7 per capita in official development assistance in 2010, compared with $34 for Viet Nam, $52 for Cambodia and $67 for the Lao People's Democratic Republic. Consequently, it required a substantial increase in assistance to make up for lost time, particularly given its transition towards

democracy and urgent need for assistance in human resource development and capacity-building of public institutions to implement the reform process.

46. Its reforms to date had already prompted donor countries to change their policies towards the country and ease restrictions, paving the way for the development system and international financial institutions to resume development assistance. Myanmar hoped that the United Nations would increase and broaden assistance to facilitate the reform process and improve the socioeconomic situation of the people of Myanmar, in full consultation with the Government and its development partners.

47. Myanmar welcomed the decision of the UNDP Executive Board in June 2012 to resume the normal country programme process for Myanmar for 2013-2015. It looked forward to greater United Nations assistance in addressing its national priorities, including the national census to be conducted in 2014, the fight against narcotic drugs, poverty reduction, disaster risk management and good governance. It also looked forward to the added impetus of a complete lifting of remaining restrictions, which impeded trade, investment and aid. Lastly, he stressed the importance of enhancing coordination by further strengthening the resident coordinator system, the United Nations Development Assistance Framework and common administrative services at the country level.

48. **Mr. Alibabaee** (Islamic Republic of Iran) said that the quadrennial comprehensive policy review provided a unique opportunity to evaluate the effectiveness, efficiency, coherence and impact of the Organization's development activities; determine system-wide policy guidelines; and reaffirm the central role of the United Nations system in advancing sustainable development.

49. South-South cooperation was an expression of solidarity, self-reliance and economic indcpendence, and therefore required the support of the United Nations system. South-South and triangular cooperation were based on national sovereignty, complete equality, mutual respect and benefit, and the exchange of best practices.

50. His delegation welcomed the recent decision to rename the Special Unit for South-South Cooperation as the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation, and looked forward to tangible measures to strengthen its human and financial resources. He hoped that the forthcoming report of the Secretary-General for submission to the High-level Committee on South-South Cooperation would address that topic.

51. His country had enjoyed rapid progress and had the potential for stable and solid growth. It had developed cordial and close cooperation with other countries of the South. However, owing to lack of infrastructure, economic ties had not developed on an equal footing with political relations. The Islamic Republic of Iran had, nevertheless, contributed to projects in numerous developing countries.

52. **Mr. Charles** (Trinidad and Tobago) said that his country was concerned at the decline in core resources for development, imbalance between core and non-core resources, continued unfulfilled commitments for official development assistance, and the need to increase funding of operational activities for development. Those activities should maintain their neutrality, multilateralism and ability to act flexibly, coherently and effectively in line with national plans and priorities.

53. Trinidad and Tobago was host to the United Nations Development Programme and eight other United Nations agencies, and constantly sought greater synergy between their activities and the national development agenda. It was currently reviewing the effectiveness of United Nations operations in order to improve coordination and secure common premises for United Nations agencies.

54. Middle-income developing countries such as his own faced a range of challenges and were home to almost three quarters of the world's poor. The United Nations development system must address their needs, taking into account their structural challenges. The particular vulnerabilities of small island developing States also required attention. The regional commissions and their subregional offices played a vital role in ensuring that the nature and quality of assistance were appropriate. Staff expertise should, as far as possible, be tailored to the particular needs of each country.

55. The quadrennial comprehensive policy review should strike a balance between assessing the actions taken thus far and looking forward to emerging challenges.

56. **Mr. Rachmianto** (Indonesia) said that the quadrennial review should provide strategic guidance

in order to improve the delivery of assistance at all levels in the light of emerging economic realities. United Nations development activities should act as a complement to national efforts. They should respond in a tailored manner to the varied needs, priorities and strategies of Member States. They should be aimed at strengthening national capacities, and their impact should be consistently measured and assessed.

57. The functioning of United Nations agencies, funds and programmes should reflect the changing landscape of international development cooperation. In particular, balanced geographic and gender representation had taken on a new importance in view of the increasingly prominent role of developing countries. The resident coordinator system should receive institutional and financial support, but the transaction costs resulting from coordination activities should be minimized. Measures to streamline administrative procedures should be accelerated.

58. In order to respond better to the growing needs of Member States, the United Nations development system would need adequate, sustainable and predictable resources. Developed countries should therefore fulfil their official development assistance commitments. Greater incentives for donations to the core funding of operational activities should be in place, and efforts to broaden and diversify the donor base should be encouraged. Non-core funding should become more flexible and aligned with national priorities. Partnerships should be developed with the private sector and civil society in order to develop alternative financing for development, particularly from emerging economies.

59. **Mr. Manongi** (United Republic of Tanzania) said that, in view of the prevailing economic turmoil and declining development assistance, the quadrennial comprehensive policy review should be negotiated on the basis of reality on the ground rather than the bargaining positions of Member States. In cooperation with the United Nations system, his Government had launched the pilot project of the United Nations Development Assistance Framework in order to define its cooperation with 20 United Nations agencies, funds and programmes.

60. The quadrennial review would coincide with the conclusion of the "Delivering as one" pilot phase. His delegation hoped that the findings of the independent evaluation of that process would continue to inform the review. The countries that had undergone a pilot programme clearly wished to maintain the "Delivering as one" model, which had been adopted by other countries since its inception in 2007. It would be unfortunate if the review did not take their choice into account. The resident coordinator system should be strengthened, as should national ownership and leadership of development programmes. Progress made at the country level should be replicated at Headquarters.

61. Funding for operational activities should take into consideration their fundamental characteristics, which were, inter alia, their universal, voluntary and grant nature, neutrality and multilateralism. Accountability, transparency and a focus on results were all essential. His country had held successful consultations in the light of its national policy framework under the United Nations Development Assistance Framework. The country-led and independent evaluation of the "Delivering as one" programme had highlighted successful examples of the harmonization of business practices. It had also, however, drawn attention to the need to improve working methods. The role of the resident coordinator should similarly be articulated in the course of negotiations. Lastly, the United Nations system should be able to tailor its approach to the needs, realities, priorities and planning modalities of each country, while acting within a holistic and comprehensive concept of development.

62. **Mr. Oguntuyi** (Nigeria) said that the report of the Secretary-General entitled "Analysis of funding of operational activities for development of the United Nations system for 2010" (A/67/94-E/2012/80) had drawn attention to the growing imbalance between unrestricted core resources and highly fragmented non-core funding. Funding of operational activities had been unpredictable, unreliable and unstable, with negative implications for overall programme coherence, efficiency and transaction costs. He urged the international community to remain committed to the fundamental principles governing those activities. There was a need for a strengthened global partnership for development, based on national ownership and the voluntary adoption of the "Delivering as one" model, and factoring in each country's national needs, priorities and planning modalities. The Bretton Woods institutions should be comprehensively reformed, becoming more transparent, consultative, inclusive and

responsive to the particular needs of developing countries.

63. Because declining official development assistance had hindered the realization of the Millennium Development Goals, Nigeria urged developed countries to honour their commitments in a timely manner and enhance market access for goods and services from developing countries.

64. South-South cooperation was an expression of solidarity and unity, and defined the common goals and aspirations of developing countries. It was a complement to, rather than a substitute for, North-South cooperation. In order to strengthen it further, the international community should fully embrace the framework and principles contained in the Yamoussoukro Consensus. His delegation welcomed the recent decision to rename the Special Unit for South-South Cooperation as the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation. Concrete measures should now be taken to further strengthen the Office and fully integrate South-South cooperation in United Nations policies and programmes.

65. His own country had built constructive relations with several major emerging markets in order to diversify its economy, which had thus far been dependent on oil. The Nigeria Technical Cooperation Fund, under the management of the African Development Bank, had implemented several aid projects in Africa. His country also had a technical aid corps that provided assistance to other African, Caribbean and Pacific countries. Lastly, Nigeria was an active participant in a scientific and technical exchange programme that drew on the expertise of African researchers and offered partnerships in the use of research facilities across African countries.

66. **Mr. Dabiré** (Burkina Faso) said that while the coherence of United Nations activities had improved significantly, the role of resident coordinators and of the United Nations Development Assistance Framework should be strengthened in order better to foster country-level synergies. The lessons learned from the relatively successful "Delivering as one" initiative should also be incorporated into the quadrennial comprehensive policy review. The Economic and Social Council had held a fruitful discussion on the review at the coordination segment of its substantive session of 2012.

67. South-South cooperation had made considerable progress over the previous three years. The countries of the South were increasingly adept at political governance, socioeconomic management, environmental protection, promotion of commerce and investment, but their knowledge was unevenly distributed. The sharing of best practices had helped to tackle economic challenges, particularly in least developed countries. The emerging economies could play a greater role in supporting the efforts of fragile economies in low-income countries.

68. The main obstacle to South-South cooperation remained lack of resources. There was therefore a need to strengthen triangular cooperation mechanisms in support of development activities. South-South and triangular cooperation should not, however, be an excuse for the countries of the North to avoid their international commitments. His delegation welcomed the renaming of the Special Unit for South-South Cooperation as the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation, and hoped that the Office would receive the necessary resources.

69. **Mr. Kitchadeth** (Lao People's Democratic Republic) said that the quadrennial comprehensive policy review should address the concerns and needs of programme countries, particularly the least developed countries and the list of landlocked developing countries. United Nations operational activities for development should be enhanced, taking into consideration national policies and priorities. The quadrennial review should promote the effectiveness, efficiency and impact of those activities, providing increased and predictable resources in order to address the imbalance of core and non-core funding.

70. The effective implementation of the United Nations Development Assistance Framework reflected the cohesion and harmony of country-level activities, whose main duty was to support national programmes. His Government and the relevant United Nations agencies were implementing the third cycle of the Framework, which coincided with the seventh national socioeconomic development plan (2012-2015). The goals of the two processes were closely interrelated. Their ultimate goal was to ensure that, by 2020, the Lao People's Democratic Republic was no longer a least developed country. The partnership allowed the Government to guide and shape the support of the United Nations, thereby strengthening its ownership of the development agenda. On its own initiative, his

Government was committed to becoming a "Delivering as one" self-starter country and promoting a strong resident coordinator's office.

71. The planning process of the Framework was time-consuming, and countries should be allowed the flexibility to ensure that the process and final plan were practical. The Framework had been intended to reduce transaction costs, simplifying the agencies' workload and enabling governments to deal with a single programming, review and reporting process. However, the continuation of agency-specific requirements from Headquarters impeded that aim.

72. **Mr. Lakhal** (Tunisia) said that the quadrennial comprehensive policy review should be ambitious and lead to a stronger role for United Nations operational activities. The latter should retain their universal, voluntary and grant nature and neutrality. They should be able to respond flexibly to the needs of developing countries, at their request and in accordance with their needs. The United Nations development system should have an enhanced role in supporting national development efforts, including by facilitating access to new technologies and tackling persistent and emerging challenges such as unemployment.

73. In order to fulfil its mandate in a coherent, effective and efficient manner, United Nations operational activities for development required an effective mechanism ensuring both quality and quantity of funds. His delegation therefore noted with concern the declining trend in total contributions to the United Nations development system and the growing imbalance between core and non-core funding. Donors should increase their voluntary contributions to the core regular budget and ensure that their funding was more stable, predictable, effective and efficient.

74. The quadrennial review should recognize the particular and diverse needs of each developing country, respecting national ownership, sovereignty and cultural specificities. The specific experience of individual United Nations finds, programmes and agencies should be recognized and fully integrated into operational activities. Resident coordinators and United Nations country teams should consult more with relevant stakeholders, under the leadership of national governments, in order to ensure that United Nations planning was aligned with national needs and priorities. The review should simplify and harmonize country-level programming instruments in order to improve flexibility and reduce transaction costs for governments and other partners.

75. Since the revolution of January 2011, Tunisia had been undergoing an important political and economic transition with widespread support from the international community and United Nations system. His country deeply appreciated that support and looked forward to enhanced cooperation and successful reforms.

76. **Mr. Bermeo** (Observer for the Inter-Parliamentary Union) said that parliamentarians could act as a development partner in their own right. Parliamentarians adopted budgets for development cooperation, including appropriations for United Nations operations, and monitored accountability on behalf of citizens. The Inter-Parliamentary Union worked closely with the United Nations to involve parliamentarians in field work and in the Development Cooperation Forum, the aid effectiveness process led by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development and the steering committee of the nascent Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation.

77. In order better to understand United Nations field operations and the "Delivering as one" initiative, a parliamentary advisory group to the International Parliamentary Union Committee on United Nations Affairs had visited several countries and met with United Nations resident coordinators and country teams, Government representatives and other stakeholders. The advisory group had found that United Nations field operations already had direct interaction with national parliaments at all levels and in all areas. The group had highlighted the need for resident coordinators and country teams to regularly update national parliaments on the overall picture of United Nations operations in the country; ensure that parliamentarians were invited to reviews and evaluations of those operations; appoint a focal point for parliaments; develop clear and uniform guidelines on how to interact with parliament; and ensure overall coordination of United Nations assistance to the parliament. Those measures would support national ownership and foster implementation of General Assembly resolution 66/261 on interaction between the United Nations, national parliaments and the Inter-Parliamentary Union.

78. Despite their potential role in supporting national ownership of development, funding for capacity development remained disproportionately skewed against parliaments. The Union therefore looked forward to greater operational cooperation with the United Nations system and, in particular, the United Nations Development Programme.

79. **Ms. Manente** (World Food Programme (WFP)) said that the World Food Programme participated in South-South and triangular cooperation by supporting governments' efforts to manage food programmes. For example, with the leadership and support of the Brazilian Cooperation Agency, the World Food Programme had established a World Food Programme Centre of Excellence against Hunger in Brasilia in 2011. It had conducted 16 study visits in Africa, Asia and Latin America, as well as receiving visits from stakeholder ministries, which had promoted South-South policy dialogue and the building of regional peer networks.

80. The World Food Programme had also facilitated cooperation between Chile, Honduras and Guatemala to determine a joint work plan on food and nutritional security for 2012-2013. Along with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the Governments of Brazil and Mozambique, the Programme was a participant in the Purchase from Africans for Africa initiative, which was intended to boost the income of small-scale farmers. More recently, the Programme had organized a visit of Palestinian Authority officials to Egypt.

81. Contributions from Brazil, the Russian Federation, India, China and South Africa to the agency's programme countries had grown from $8.7 million in 2002 to over $140 million in 2011. South-South cooperation had further been advanced through the practice of combining food contributions from one country with the cash commitment of a partner government. For example, South Africa had provided funds to transport and distribute over 200 tons of sugar donated by Cuba to Haiti. The World Food Programme was pursuing other South-South cooperation initiatives with China and the Republic of Korea.

82. **Mr. Assaf** (United Nations Inter-Agency Cluster on Trade and Productive Development) said that the United Nations Inter-Agency Cluster on Trade and Productive Capacity was intended to coordinate the work of various United Nations entities in relation to aid for trade, the Millennium Development Goals, the sustainable development goals and the post-2015 development agenda. By coordinating technical assistance at the national and regional levels, it had helped to enhance system-wide coherence. The Cluster had coordinated actions linking trade to employment policy, food security concerns and trade negotiations, environmental goals and industrial policies, support for export and investment. United Nations regional commissions participated in the Cluster in order to ensure that regional perspectives were taken into account. By acting together, United Nations entities could better align their activities with national development strategies.

83. The post-2015 development agenda should become the driving force behind United Nations joint programmes for development assistance. Donor support for such programmes, particularly through multi-partner trust funds, would be critical in order for United Nations agencies to provide sustainable, predictable and timely assistance.

84. **Mr. Elkeiy** (United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)) said that the Doha Mandate agreed at the thirteenth session of UNCTAD (TD/500/Add.1) had reaffirmed the role of UNCTAD as focal point in the United Nations for the integrated treatment of trade and development, and interrelated issues in the areas of finance, technology, investment and sustainable development. It had stressed that South-South cooperation, as a complement but not a substitute for North-South cooperation, was a positive aspect of international cooperation for developing countries to expand their growth and development potential. UNCTAD had therefore been requested to continue its research and its technical support programme.

85. UNCTAD had been actively promoting South-South cooperation since the 1960s, and was therefore in a unique position to provide a balanced and reliable picture of the issue in order to develop productive capacities and promote coherence in commercial, financial and technological exchanges. The establishment in 2009 of the UNCTAD Unit on Economic Cooperation and Integration among Developing Countries had given fresh impetus to its work in that area. Relevant reports issued by UNCTAD included the economic development in Africa report 2010, entitled "South-South Cooperation: Africa and the

New Forms of Development Partnership" (UNCTAD/ALDC/AFRICA/2010), the least developed countries report 2011, entitled "The Potential Role of South-South Cooperation for Inclusive and Sustainable Development" (UNCTAD/LDC/2011), the creative economy report 2010 (UNCTAD/DITC/TAB2010/3), and a recent report on the rise of the South, which discussed the potential impact of emerging countries on the international system and the challenges and opportunities arising from South-South, North-South and triangular cooperation.

The meeting rose at 5.45 p.m.